

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 705

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Chief Mark Anthony Foulks upon earning the designation of Chief EMS Officer.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize and applaud those stalwart individuals who not only go above and beyond the call of duty to protect their fellow citizens but also strive to further enhance their knowledge and abilities at every opportunity; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is Mark Anthony Foulks, chief of the Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department, who was recently awarded the professional designation of Chief Emergency Medical Services Officer (CEMSO); and

WHEREAS, this designation recognizes individuals who demonstrate excellence in seven measured components, including experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement, and technical competence; and

WHEREAS, Chief Foulks underwent a strict and thorough peer review conducted by the Commission on Professional Credentialing, part of the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Incorporated, to determine if he adequately met those requirements; and

WHEREAS, having earned the CEMSO designation, Mark Foulks will have to reapply for it every three years and continue to demonstrate growth in the areas of professional development, professional contributions, active association membership, and community involvement, as well as adhere to a strict code of professional conduct, criteria he will undoubtedly meet; and

WHEREAS, by earning the designation of CEMSO, Chief Mark Foulks has become a member of an elite group whose membership numbers only 123 in the world; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the National Fire Academy, where he completed the Executive Fire Officer Program, Mark Foulks received his Associate of Applied Science, concentrating in emergency medical services, from Roane State Community College and his Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science *summa cum laude* from Columbia Southern University, and

WHEREAS, at the Fire Academy, Chief Foulks completed a number of training courses, including executive leadership, executive analysis of fire service operations in emergency management, leading community risk reduction, executive development, EMS management of community health risks, EMS special operations, fire service communications, advanced leadership issues in EMS, and management of emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, prior to serving as chief of the Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department, Mark Foulks served as fire chief of the Greeneville Fire Department; as a fire management consultant at the University of Tennessee, County Technical Assistance Service; as a firefighter and assistant chief of the City of Knoxville Fire Department; and as a paramedic with the Sevier County Ambulance Service; and

WHEREAS, he has also received a number of licenses, certifications, and designations from organizations such as the Center for Public Safety Excellence, the State of Tennessee Department of Health/Division of Emergency Medical Services, the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting, and the Tennessee Hazardous Material Institute; and

WHEREAS, utilizing his knowledge and abilities wherever they are needed, Chief Foulks serves on a number of boards and committees, including the Tennessee Homeland Security Council; the Rutherford County Emergency Communications District, which he serves as chairman of the Board of Directors; the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, which he serves as co-business manager and board member; the International Association of Fire Chiefs; the

Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs; the Middle Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association; the National Fire Protection Association; and the Tennessee EMS Education Association; and

WHEREAS, it is without question that Chief Mark Foulks goes above and beyond the call of duty in order to protect the citizens of his community. His lengthy career and resume are a testament to his commitment to fire safety and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, with his designation of Chief EMS Officer, Chief Foulks has demonstrated that he is wholly committed to furthering his knowledge and ability to be better prepared when disaster strikes; and

WHEREAS, Mark Foulks is a credit not only to the community of Murfreesboro but to the entire State of Tennessee, and it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should salute this steadfast hero and thank him for his valiant service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Chief Mark Anthony Foulks upon earning the designation of Chief EMS Officer, applaud his dedicated efforts to protect the people of Murfreesboro, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.